

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims remain unamended. Claims 1-16 are pending and under consideration.

The sole issue raised in the Office Action is a rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0108075 to Douglass et al. Applicants previously argued that the present application has an earlier date than Douglass et al. The Examiner responds to this argument on page 4. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the foreign priority papers cannot be relied upon because a translation of the papers has not been made of record. Being filed herewith is a certified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-027133, filed on February 4, 2003. The Examiner is requested to review the certified translation. It shows that the present application is entitled to the earlier priority date.

Douglass et al. is not available as prior art under 35 USC §102(e). Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

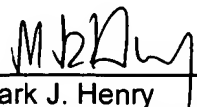
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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